

RE: Public Hearing Notice -- Environment Committee, State of Connecticut

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had my OWF for about six years. In that time I have learned to use it more efficiently. To begin with, before I installed it I spent one year looking for the correct location. Taking into consideration the prevailing winds during the periods it would be in operation, I hung two foot strands of yarn in several locations on my property and noted which direction the wind blew during the period of October 16 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, which I felt was the period that I would be using it. After deciding which location was best I then proceeded to install the OWF. 90% of the time the wind would blow any smoke in a harmless direction which would be about two miles to a house, even though I have neighbors on either side. The other 10% of the time, when early fall or late spring winds would come from the south, it would blow directly at my own house and then go harmlessly into a field across from my house. Every year, I ask the six neighbors on either side of me if my smoke comes at their house and every year the answer is no. Three neighbors did not even know I had this unit. Even so, I have now limited operation for the period between November 1<sup>st</sup> and approximately April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Through years of operating this unit I have zeroed in on things that make it function more efficiently, using less wood and getting more heat and less smoke. Filling a hot stove with wood that is cold will make the stove smoke. I only put in three or four pieces at a time, therefore it can heat them up to a temperature where combustion can take place in a relatively short time, thus reducing the time that any smoke can take place. Burning seasoned, good quality wood and not stuffing 10 or so pieces in at once, make for an almost smoke free burn. Many times I see nothing at all coming from the stack when the vent door is open. Learning the proper method of operation is probably the most important part of the unit. It's like anything else in life, you only get out of it what you put into it. If you use garbage wood that is wet or green you will surely get a smoke screen. The operator is the key element in how the unit performs. Don't blame the unit for unsatisfactory operation...Blame the operator. These are efficient units are safer than an indoor unit, but location and operator savvy are a must.

Jim Petlak